Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   An image file for storing a digital image and information related to a the digital image, including:
   a)   digital image data;
   b)   a user identifier; and
   c)   affective information which relates to the feelings or emotions of the user identified by the user identifier toward a the digital image stored in the image file.

2.   (Currently Amended) The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information further specifies the time or period within a range of times that the classification was performed affective information was produced.

3.   (Original) The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information identifies the importance of the image.

4.   (Currently Amended) The image file of claim 1 wherein the image file further includes information related to the capture device used to capture the digital image.

5.   (Original) The image file of claim 1 wherein the image data is a JPEG compressed image data.

6.   (Original) The image file of claim 1 wherein the digital image file includes affective information and user identifiers for a plurality of users.

7.   (Original) A method for providing a retrieval scheme for stored digital images, using the image file of claim 6, comprising the steps of:

a)   a retrieval user providing a user identifier;

b)   using the user identifier provided by the retrieval user to select, from the plurality of affective information, the particular affective information associated with the retrieval user; and

c)   using the affective information to facilitate image retrieval.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the affective information identifies the importance of the image to a plurality of users.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the affective information is used to determine the order of presentation of retrieved images.

10.   (Original) The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information is provided by monitoring the facial expression of the user.

11.   (Original) The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information is provided by monitoring the physiology of the user.

12.   (Original) The image file of claim 1 wherein the affective information is provided by a user interface which enables the user to indicate important images.

13.   (Previously Presented) An image file for storing only one particular digital image and information related to the particular digital image, including:

a)   digital image data corresponding to the particular digital image to be displayed; and

b)   metadata separate from the digital image data that is usable to retrieve the particular digital image which includes a user identifier and

affective information which relates to the feelings or emotions of the user toward the particular digital image.

14.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 13 wherein the affective information further specifies the time or period within a range of times that the classification was performed.

15.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 13 wherein the affective information identifies the importance of the image.

16.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 13 wherein the metadata further includes information related to the capture device.

17.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 13 wherein the image data is a JPEG compressed image data.

18.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 13 wherein the metadata includes affective information and user identifiers for a plurality of users.

19.   (Previously Presented) A method for providing a retrieval scheme for stored digital images, using the image file of claim 18, comprising:

a)   a retrieval user providing a user identifier;

b)   using the user identifier provided by the retrieval user to select, from the plurality of affective information, the particular affective information associated with the retrieval user; and

c)   using the affective information to facilitate image retrieval.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the affective information identifies the importance of the image to a plurality of users.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the affective information is used to determine the order of presentation of retrieved images.

22.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 13 wherein the affective information is provided by monitoring the facial expression of the user.

23.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 13 wherein the affective information is provided by monitoring the physiology of the user.

24.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 13 wherein the affective information is provided by a user interface which enables the user to indicate important images.

25.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 13 wherein the affective information is stored as personal affective tag data.

26.   (Previously Presented) The image file of claim 25 wherein the personal affective tag data is a numerical value.